

Applicant: Golds et al.
Application Serial No.: 10/716,639
Filing Date: November 19, 2003
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Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (previously presented): A method of forming a stent-graft prosthesis comprising the step of:

forming a first PTFE tubular structure;

positioning a stent over said first PTFE tubular structure, said stent having a tubular configuration formed of a plurality of turns of a helically wound wire, each of said turns including successive upper and lower wave-like peaks;

forming a second PTFE tubular structure over said stent; and

exposing selective ones of said upper and lower wave-like peaks through said second PTFE tubular structure, wherein exposing includes placing a plurality of slits through said second PTFE tubular structure at a location aligned with said selective upper and lower peaks of said stent; and extending said upper and lower peaks of said stent through said slits.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method of claim 26 further including the step of adheringly securing said first PTFE tubular stent to said second PTFE tubular structure through spaces between said wound wire.

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Claim 28 (cancelled): A method of claim 27 wherein said exposing step includes:

placing a plurality of slits through said second PTFE tubular structure at a location aligned with said selective upper and lower peaks of said stent; and
extending said upper and lower peaks of said stent through said slits.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A method of claim 27 wherein said extending step includes:

lifting said selective upper and lower peaks;
tucking a portion of said second PTFE tubular structure adjacent said slit, under said upper and lower peaks.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method of claim 27 wherein said placing step includes:

cutting said slits using a cutting tool.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A method of claim 27 wherein said placing step includes:

laser burning said slits through said second PTFE tubular structure.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method of claim 27 wherein said exposing step includes:

forming said second PTFE tubular structure with a plurality of apertures, said apertures being at a location adjacent said selective upper and lower peaks.

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Claim 33 (previously presented): A method of claim 26 wherein said second PTFE tubular structure is sintered prior to said exposing step.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method of claim 26 wherein said second PTFE tubular structure is sintered subsequent to said exposing step.